

S T A F F      S T U D Y

SUBJECT: INSIGNIA ON CHAPLAIN HEADGEAR (FIELD)

U. S. Army Chaplain School  
Fort Hamilton, New York

Course 16-A-C22

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SUBJECT: Insignia on Chaplain Headgear (Field).

1. PROBLEM. To determine the appropriate chaplain insignia (rank or branch) for wear on headgear (field).
2. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM.

- a. The branch insignia is to be worn on the helmet and helmet liner by the chaplain. (Annex A 1.)
- b. Army regulation does not preclude the wearing of either rank or branch insignia by the chaplain on headgear (field). (Annex A 2.)
- c. The duties of chaplains as prescribed by AR 165-15 have a bearing on the problem. (Annex A 3a to 3e, incl.)
- d. A questionnaire was given out to each chaplain of the Basic and career classes of the U. S. Army Chaplain School, Fort Hamilton, New York. On this questionnaire the chaplain was asked to answer the following question:  
  
I believe that the appropriate chaplain insignia to wear on headgear (field) should be:

A. Rank insignia \_\_\_\_\_

B. Branch insignia \_\_\_\_\_

Also, each was asked to give his reasons for his answer.

- (1) All of the chaplains but one checked branch insignia.
- (2) For details see Annex B (Summary of comments).

3. DISCUSSION.

- a. Since the branch insignia is to be worn on the helmet and helmet liner by the chaplain according to AR 670-5, we may, by the same reasoning, justify the branch insignia being worn on the other field headgear. If it is necessary for the chaplain wearing the helmet and helmet liner to be identified by the wearing of his branch insignia, then, at least to some degree, it would be expedient for him to be easily identified by the wearing of the branch insignia on the other headgear (field).
- b. The status of the chaplain in the Army is that of a religious leader and a staff officer. His duties are those which normally pertain to his profession as a clergyman. Therefore, since his primary purpose is religious, he has reason to be identified by the wearing of his branch insignia on the headgear (field).
- c. Since chaplains are noncombatants their duties are restricted to those compatible with this status. Therefore, it is not necessary for the chaplain to emphasize the insignia of rank.
- d. All chaplains are addressed as "chaplain" regardless of their military grade or professional title. When a chaplain is addressed in writing, his grade is indicated in parenthesis. The wearing of the insignia of branch on the headgear (field) would encourage the chaplain being referred to as "chaplain".

- e. In accomplishing his mission the chaplain will seek to develop a relationship of trust and mutual respect between himself and all members of the command. Special attention is to be given to the welfare of the soldier. The wearing of the branch insignia, which is the symbol of the chaplain's mission, would serve to strengthen and emphasize trust and respect between himself and all members of the command.
- f. A compilation of the questionnaires which were answered by the chaplains in the Basic Course at the U. S. Army Chaplain School resulted in eight distinct reasons in favor of the branch insignia as appropriate for the chaplain headgear (field). For details see Annex B (Summary of comments).
  - (1) The branch insignia should be worn because it enables the chaplain to be more easily recognized by the men.
  - (2) The branch insignia helps the morale of the men by symbolizing their religious faith.
  - (3) The chaplain should bear the branch insignia because he is first of all a man of God.
  - (4) It is much easier for the men to locate the chaplain when his branch insignia is easily visible.
  - (5) The branch insignia worn on the headgear (field) will increase the possibility of the chaplain making personal contact with the men.

- (6) The chaplain should wear the branch insignia on the headgear (field) because with the field jacket on, his branch would not be visible.
- (7) In the chaplaincy the rank is secondary.
- (8) Since the branch insignia is worn on the helmet and helmet liner, it should also be worn on the other headgear (field).

g. A compilation of the questionnaires which were answered by the chaplains in the Career Course at the U. S. Army Chaplain School resulted in ten distinct reasons in favor of the branch insignia as appropriate for the chaplain headgear (field). For details see Annex B (Summary of comments).

- (1) The branch insignia should be worn because it emphasizes the chaplain's position and relationship to the troops.
- (2) The branch insignia does not minimize the chaplain's position as an officer.
- (3) The wearing of the branch insignia by the chaplain on the headgear (field) is the normal expected procedure in most units.
- (4) The wearing of the branch insignia encourages the men to call the chaplain "chaplain".
- (5) When the chaplain wears the branch insignia, it seems to commit the chaplain to live up to what the men expect of him.

- (6) Chaplains need to exhibit the image of their calling rather than grade.
  - (7) The men need to "feel" a sense of difference in the chaplain.
  - (8) Men on duty appreciate seeing a symbol of their faith clearly visible.
  - (9) Insignia of rank often elicits a negative reaction on the part of the men when over-emphasized by the chaplain.
  - (10) Since it is common knowledge that we are officers, it is not necessary that the chaplain rank insignia should be prominent.
- h. The only advantage in the chaplain wearing the rank insignia on the headgear (field) is that it would add to his prestige as an officer. It would tend to discourage the attitude of indulgence sometimes expressed in the words: "He is just the chaplain".
4. CONCLUSION. The appropriate chaplain insignia for wear on headgear (field) is branch insignia. Therefore, chaplains should wear branch insignia on the headgear (field).
  5. ACTION RECOMMENDED. That the conclusion in paragraph 4 be approved.

*ADM*  
MORGAN  
Ch (Capt), USAR  
Student, Career Course

ANNEXES: A--AR 670-5 and AR 165-15

B--Summary of comments

CONCURRENCES.

Ch (Capt) William P. Trobough  
Ch (Maj) John F. Kenny  
Ch (Capt) William W. Owen  
Ch (Capt) John E. Green  
Ch (Capt) John G. Shevlin  
Ch (Capt) John H. Kuespert  
Ch (Capt) Ralph E. Harrell  
Ch (Capt) William D. Froeschner  
Ch (Capt) William R. Gentry  
Ch (Capt) Claude E. Moorfield  
Ch (Maj) Joon Sup Han (Korea)  
Ch (Capt) Lee V. Fox  
Ch (Capt) Hershel H. Homer  
Ch (Capt) Henry M. Pollock  
Ch (Capt) Lawrence O. Sanger  
Ch (Maj) James W. Miller  
Ch (Maj) Kenneth A. Garner  
Ch (Capt) Willis F. Young  
Ch (Maj) John P. Glynn  
Ch (Maj) Walter J. Vrundy  
Ch (Capt) Robert G. Swager  
Ch (Capt) Donald B. Hasten  
Ch (Capt) Lucius M. Jobson

Ch (Capt) James C. Blanchard  
Ch (Maj) Paul F. McAfee  
Ch (Capt) Peter J. Hoffman  
Ch (Maj) Albert D. Bull  
Ch (1st Lt) Daniel F. Foyle  
Ch (1st Lt) Glenn Hamilton  
Ch (1st Lt) Edwin A. Roloson  
Ch (1st Lt) Charles E. McMillon  
Ch (2nd Lt) Paul O. Lindberg  
Ch (1st Lt) Lester G. Brady  
Ch (1st Lt) Arthur E. Lyons  
Ch (1st Lt) Paul V. Garrity  
Ch (1st Lt) Reginald Z. Miller  
Ch (1st Lt) Richard H. Johnson

Lt Colonel Gordon L. Smith, Commanding Officer

3rd Missile Battalion 51st Arty Fort Tilden, New York

NONCONCURRENCE. *Ch (Capt) Kermit Jones, Student, Career*  
Course U.S. Army Chaplain School, Fort Hamilton, New York.  
The chaplain should wear the rank insignia on his headgear  
(field) because he wears the branch insignia on his collar.  
Since the chaplain is an officer he needs to be recognized  
as such.

CONSIDERATION OF NONCONCURRENCE. The prestige which would  
be accrued by the wearing of the rank insignia on the  
chaplain headgear (field) is realized; however, in view of  
the unique purpose and mission of the chaplain, it is not  
necessary that he be recognized by rank. The chaplain's  
rank can be worn on the collar.

ANNEXES ADDED: None

ACTION BY APPROVING AUTHORITY:

Approved (disapproved), including (excluding) exceptions  
as noted.

RAYMOND E. GOUGH  
Chaplain (Lt Colonel), USA  
Director, Resident Instruction

1. AR 670-5 Section XV, Insignia: par. 125 prescribes the insignia to be worn on the helmet and helmet liner by all officers (except chaplains) and all Warrant Officers. The paragraph states: "The appropriate chaplain insignia (no insignia of grade) of the prescribed size and color, as shown in figure 28". Figure 28 shows a diagram of a helmet or helmet liner with the insignia of branch, either decal or painted, and centered four inches up from the rim of the headgear.

2. AR 670-5 Section XIV, Field and Work Uniforms, does not preclude the wearing of either rank or branch insignia by the chaplain on headgear (field). Paragraph 122 of AR 670-5 Section XIV authorizes the wearing of insignia of branch and insignia of grade on the field and work uniforms.

3. AR 165-15 Section II, Duties of Chaplains, states:

a. "The status of the chaplain in the Army is that of a religious leader and a staff officer. His duties are those which normally pertain to his profession as a clergyman and those which are prescribed by law, modified by the mission, and distinctive conditions and circumstances of the Department of the Army."

b. "Chaplains are noncombatants. Their duties are restricted to those compatible with this status. They will not be required to bear arms."

c. "All chaplains are officially addressed as "Chaplain", regardless of military grade or professional title.

*Annef A*

When a chaplain is addressed in writing, his grade is indicated in parenthesis (e.g. Chaplain (Major) John E. Doe).

- d. "The primary mission of the chaplain is to provide for the religious and moral needs of the military personnel, their families, and authorized civilians, with special attention given to the welfare of the soldier. In accomplishing his mission, the chaplain will seek to develop a relationship of trust and mutual respect between himself and all members of the command."
- e. "Commanders will not detail or assign chaplains to duties unrelated to their profession as clergymen except on a temporary basis in cases of military emergency."

*Annex A*

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

1. (Ch (Capt) Trobough)--I believe that the appropriate chaplain insignia to wear on field headgear should be branch insignia because:
  - a. The AR governing uniform and insignia says so.
  - b. The chaplain should be identified as the chaplain in the field. Much of your gear covers your collar insignia (field jacket, poncho, parka) making the headgear the only indication of branch.
2. (Ch (Maj) Kenny)--It is important that a chaplain be easily and quickly recognized by those who know him.
3. (Ch (Capt) Owen)--The chaplain's mission is purely professional and only his branch insignia will designate this.
3. (Ch (Capt) Green)--On most field uniforms the branch insignia is not visible. If the chaplain does not wear the branch insignia on his field headgear he would not be easily recognized.
4. (Ch (Capt) Shevlin)--So often we put ourselves out giving every indication of our sincerity as chaplains, yet now there are people who still refer to us by rank. Were they to see the cross always they might at least call us by the title, "chaplain." Enlisted men would expect more of us as chaplains and less as officers.
5. (Ch (Capt) Kuespert)--The branch denotes our main emphasis and calling. This will help identify us as chaplains.

*Annet B*

6. (Ch (Capt) Harrell)--We should be interested in exhibiting an image of our calling rather than grade. Also, the men see enough grade all day - they need to "feel" a sense of difference in the chaplain.

7. (Ch (Capt) Froeschner)--The branch insignia makes for easy recognition, similar to the Medic or Red Cross.

8. (Ch (Capt) Gentry)--I don't see why the matter should even be an item of debate. The chaplain is in the field because he is a chaplain.

9. (Ch (Capt) Moorfield)--The branch insignia sets the chaplain apart so that he may be found in emergencies in the field.

10. (Ch (Capt) Fox)--Men in the field appreciate seeing the symbol of their faith as it is carried by the chaplain on his headgear.

11. (Ch (Capt) Homer)--The chaplain does not desire to be known by rank but by profession. With the chaplain insignia on field headgear he is readily recognizable to all and this is most important.

12. (Ch (Capt) Pollock)--The cross is our symbol! The chaplain needs to always be identified easily in the field. Everyone should be able to personally identify the chaplain. By the cross on the field headgear there is never any question as to the identity of the chaplain.

13. (Ch (Capt) Sanger)--This represents our purpose.

14. (Ch (Maj) Miller)--It has been my policy to wear the cross on these items for these reasons:

- a. It establishes rapport with the men without any difficulty. Insignia of rank often elicits a negative reaction.
- b. There is often only one, or at most two chaplains in the area. His mission is to be with the troops and to contribute to their well-being. The cross aids in identification and in performing the mission.

15. (Ch (Maj) Garner)--The chaplain is a little different from other officers. He is a chaplain first and a captain or major second. The men think, or should think, of him in that way. Therefore, this is the insignia that should be visible.

16. (Ch (Capt) Young)--We need to be known for our work - not how long we've been in the Army.

17. (Ch (Maj) Glynn)--I think that the cross or table of commandments should be displayed. The soldier is not interested in our rank, but rather our ministrations. This is our primary function. The rank is or should be secondary.

18. (Ch (Maj) Vrundy)--The chaplain insignia on the field headgear immediately identifies the individual as a chaplain. It is common knowledge among military personnel that all chaplains are officers, whether company or field grade.

19. (Ch (Capt) Swager)--Unless the cross or tablet is worn on the headgear there is no way to identify the chaplain. In the parka, particularly, he would be another line officer. While serving with a familiar unit the chaplain would be known, but with wider area coverage in the field this would not be true.

20. (Ch (Capt) Hasten)--The majority of people with whom we deal in the field wish to know us as chaplain. Our rank insignia only complicates the problem of getting to know the men.

21 (Ch (Capt) Jobson)--The chaplain needs to be easily identified, particularly in a field situation.

22. (Ch (Capt) Blanchard)--The chaplain should wear the branch insignia for the following reasons:

- a. In order that the chaplain will be easily distinguishable at all times.
- b. It emphasizes his position and relationship to the troops.
- c. It does not minimize his position as an officer.
- d. It is the normal expected procedure in most units.

23. (Ch (Maj) McAfee)--It strikes rapport with the men. One glance tells them you are a chaplain.

24. (Ch (Capt) Hoffman)--Rank is unimportant among chaplains when compared with the importance of our work.

24. (Ch (Maj) Bull)--We should wear the branch insignia without any question. We should not try to be recognized out in the field as anything but a chaplain.

25. (Ch (1st Lt) Johnson)--Wear the branch insignia so that men in the field will know that you are a chaplain. When you are wearing a coat the branch insignia is covered.

26. (Ch (1st Lt) Garrity)--If we wear the cross insignia on the helmet to identify the chaplain, then it should be also be worn on the other headgear.

27. (Ch (1st Lt) Lyons)--The chaplain should be quickly identified as a chaplain. Also, in the chaplaincy rank should be secondary. The individual is a chaplain. Rank is for pay purposes and administration. But the chaplain should be a chaplain first and an officer second. This is the historic concept and it is on this basis only that the chaplaincy can look forward to a continued existence.

28. (Ch (1st Lt) Brady)--On some uniforms the chaplain could not be readily identified as a chaplain unless his branch insignia was on his headgear. I feel that it is important that the chaplain be seen and identified as such.

29. (Ch (1st Lt) Lindberg)--This will tend to increase possibilities of the chaplain making personal contact with the men to whom he ministers.

30. (Ch (1st Lt) Roloson)--I feel that when the men are in the field they way want to contact the chaplain. It is much easier to locate him when his insignia is visible. I have personally found this to be true during my two years as an enlisted man.

31. (Ch (1st Lt) Hamilton)--I feel that I am first of all a man of God and that I represent Him. I also think that it is confusing to the troops not to be able to easily recognize the chaplain.

32. (Ch (1st Lt) Foyle)--Wearing the branch insignia is good for the morale of the men. It is good for the men to know that the chaplain is there with them.

33. (Lt Col Smith, CO, 3rd Msl Bn)--The chaplain should wear the branch insignia on the field headgear because there is no need for him to be recognized as an officer. His duty does not necessitate it.

*Annex B*